

Remembering a local youth who always made people smile

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Steven Laramée Jr. loved computers, worked at Farfar's, disliked Harry Potter, spent many summers at camp, studied Chinese and participated in Ken Do sword fighting for the past three years. That was the surface of Steven, the person behind those characteristics fills up multiple pages on a Facebook site created in his memory, where friends, relatives and even strangers wrote their thoughts and prayers, and shared their memories.

"He was a really smart, funny kid and he always was really nice to everyone and to us," Anne Antonellis, a close family friend, said.

On Union Bridge Road, the site of the accident that took the 18-year-old Duxbury High School senior's life, a makeshift memorial has evolved. Amidst the debris of car parts and tree branches lay flowers, cards, candles, pumpkins, letters, photos and a Farfar's T-shirt. "Steve I love you, and miss you," is written across a white sheet of notebook paper. Cards with phrases like, "May Jesus take you by the hand," and "praying for your comfort as you remember him, heaven's deep love has brought him peace at last," lay among the flowers. And on a piece of green construction paper it reads, "Steven Laramée rest in peace, Eoin and Spencer stay strong."

Steven's younger brother, Eion Laramée, and friend Spencer Meine were also seriously injured in the crash last Friday.

On the large oak tree where his car came to a final stop, a yellow cross was painted and letters, poems, and photos are tacked to the trunk. A photo of Steven as a child at the beach was signed by his loved ones and left there.

Over 1,000 people have joined three Facebook sites created after the accident, combined they contain over 400 postings. Many of Steven's friends are remembering his life by tagging their postings and dedicating "May Angels Lead You In," a song by Jimmy Eat World, in memory of Steven. The song

is about dealing with the sudden death of a loved one, and never getting a chance to say goodbye. "May Angels Lead You In," "I love and miss you Steve," rest in peace," fill the wall postings as last goodbyes.

Banners with messages written on them were made for all three crash victims to be hung up at the high school. Outside the building, students wrote message in chalk. Friends are creating picture bulletins, and a student movie is being made in his honor.

Throughout the past week, Antonellis has attended many of the community events held in honor of Steven and through those events she

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Friends, family remember Steven Laramée

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has seen a different side of Steven, a side she said she wished she had the opportunity to know herself.

"I see a different side (of Steven) as an adult, he's even sweeter than I thought he was, the way he makes people laugh, I wish I was 17 and knew him as he was," she said.

It was obvious Steven touched many of his peers, as more than 500 people came out in remembrance of him, and in prayer for Eoin and Spencer, in a vigil last Sunday. Monday afternoon after school a large group of students assembled in the auditorium to share stories and memories.

"I think it has been helpful to them through this process for them sharing with each other stories and remembrances," Superintendent Susan Skeiber said.

Antonellis described Steven and his brother Eoin's relation-

ship as more than just brothers. They were extremely close she said, and Eoin idolized Steven.

She said it has been really hard, "he was a beautiful boy and a beautiful child, there are not even words to describe how anyone feels."

"He was well loved," Antonellis said.

Over and over again Steven is regarded as a kind, funny person, the guy who could always make you smile and make you laugh. From Plymouth to Kingston to Duxbury, he left a lasting impression. All along, he had a friend whose path in life seemed to trail Steven's.

Timothy Ledin recalled when he first met Steven and Eoin at Camp Clark in Plymouth in the summer of 1998. Because both their parents worked late, the three boys would stay at camp together swimming and playing 4-square until their parents picked them up. Ledin recalled



STAFF PHOTO/ANDRIA FAIRRELL

Notes and mementos at the site of a car crash that claimed the life of DHS senior Steven Laramée, Jr.

sharing a few summers with the Laramée brothers at summer camp, until he moved to Kingston and entered a new school system.

When Ledin started at Kingston Intermediate School, while staying late after school until he could be picked up, he walked into the cafeteria where all the after-school students congregated and stumbled upon a very familiar face. "The face was that of my friend Steven and his brother, there right by his side," Tim recalled.

The boys would be reunited after school, studying, doing homework and playing wall ball with other students. The following year Tim moved on to Silver Lake Junior High and then moved to Duxbury for high school.

Taking Tech Ed, woodworking and electrical classes he once again stumbled upon that same

familiar face. In his sophomore year Tim took a robotics class. On the first day of class he looked around to see if there were any familiar faces, "out of the corner of my eye, I saw this smile," he said. It was the same smile he had seen almost eight years ago at the time, for the first time. He said they both looked at each other and began laughing uncontrollably. "I have never laughed harder, and I may never laugh that hard again," he said.

"I wish I had said goodbye to Steve. He was truly a great person and everyone loved being around him. For people who didn't know Steve Laramée, you missed out on a great person, friend, son, and brother," Tim said.

Steven's spirit is blowing in the breeze as a banner saying, "Steven L. in our hearts forever" hangs from an overpass over Route 3 northbound in Duxbury.